

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 533

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to designate May 6-12, 2012, as "Children's Mental Health Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, mental health is critical for the well-being and vitality of children, families, communities, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, up to fourteen percent of children between birth and five years old experience social-emotional problems that negatively impact their functioning, development, and school readiness; and

WHEREAS, nearly twenty-one percent of youth ages thirteen to eighteen suffer from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of those youths suffering a mental illness drop out of high school, thereby experiencing reduced potential for education, employment, and income; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of youth in state and local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth, with ninety percent of those youth suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, learning to recognize the early warning signs of mental health problems and where to obtain necessary assistance and treatment gives children and youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, children and youth with mental health illnesses should, whenever possible, remain in a familiar environment and have access to coordinated, individualized, home- and community-based services; and

WHEREAS, mental health treatment works, and investment in these services and supports is fundamental to the future of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental health services for children, youth, and families is a critical responsibility of all local Tennessee communities; and

WHEREAS, our nation's future depends on the health and well-being of its families and children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with citizens from across this State in recognizing May 6-12, 2012, as "Children's Mental Health Week" in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to commemorate this week by increasing awareness and promoting children's mental health services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.